



## **H.R. 2197 – Hopewell Culture National Historical Park Boundary Adjustment Act**

### **FLOOR SITUATION**

H.R. 2197 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Zach Space (D-OH) on May 7, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources and was reported by unanimous consent.

H.R. 2197 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives on October 22, 2007.

### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 2197 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to modify the boundary of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Chillicothe, Ohio to add additional acres to the Park.

The legislation also allows the Park to construct a number of new facilities, at a cost of \$350,000.

### **BACKGROUND**

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park evolved in part from the former Mound City Group National Monument. The national monument was established by a proclamation signed by President Warren G. Harding in 1923 to preserve prehistoric mounds of "great historic and scientific interest." In 1980 and again in 1992, the park was expanded by Congress to its current size. "The park protects the prehistoric remains of a dynamic social and ceremonial phenomenon that flourished in the woodlands of eastern North America between 200 B.C. and A.D. 500".

Spruce Hill is a 238 acre area adjacent to the Hopewell Culture Historical Park. This property may contain historical earthworks, which could be used for research purposes. The estate of the deceased owners of Spruce Hill sold the property to a local environmental group, known as Highlands Sanctuary. Highlands Sanctuary wants to sell the land to the park for \$450,000-\$600,000.

In addition, Seip Earthworks, another environmental group, will be allowed to sell their land to the National Parks System to also be used in the Park. This land will be purchased at a cost of \$250,000-\$300,000.

**COST**

According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), “Based on information provided by the NPS, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2197 would cost about \$1 million over the next five years, assuming the availability of appropriated funds. We estimate that the NPS would spend about \$700,000 of this amount in the first year or two to purchase about 250 acres of private land, including nearly 180 acres at the Spruce Hill Works site and about 70 acres at the Seip Earthworks site. (We expect that 39 acres of land at the Seip Earthworks site would be donated by the Ohio Historical Society; the remaining 70 acres at that site are already owned by the NPS.) We estimate that the NPS would spend \$300,000 over the following few years to construct visitor facilities for the two sites, including trails, parking lots, and wayside exhibits. Finally, we estimate that costs to manage the newly added areas would be minimal. Enacting H.R. 2197 would have no effect on direct spending or revenues”.

**STAFF CONTACT**

For questions or further information contact Luke Hatzis at (202) 226-2302.